



## Tree Mortality Task Force Agenda

January 9, 2017

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

[www.treetaskforce.org](http://www.treetaskforce.org)

1. Call to order – Rick Carr
2. Opening Comments 1:01 started
  - Chairperson - Ken Pimlott (Saul Gomez and Mark Ghilarducci were not in attendance)
    - Recent weather has resulted a significant flood response and consequently many people are not able to attend or have used the conference line option to call in.
    - Trees are starting to decay and it is anticipated that lots of trees may fall. The recent storm is adding another dimension to the tree mortality.
  - Task Force Leader - Gabe Schultz
    - Annual logistics review
      1. Calendar- out line of where and when the TF meetings will be
3. USFS Update – Chris Fischer
  - USFS comment
    - To date, 242,000 trees have been treated
    - Looking at continuous planning around tree mortality
    - With the new farm bill authority, we may see a streamline approach to NEPA
    - Seeing a lot of down trees along road systems including areas that have already been treated, like campgrounds, campgrounds are getting very thin with dead trees
    - Q- Can you speak to funding A- we still have our funding requests, various levels of requests, wait to see what the budget look like, Washington office staff is talking about additional funding, Fuel reductions projects have been asked NEPA ready Tier I HH projects, lots of uncertainty about budgets right now.
    - Q-CSAC, would be helpful to know what those are, to help advocate for resources
    - Q- Rosemarie, what is going to happen with the campgrounds? A- Possible relocation, and review with landscape architects. People worried about losing opportunities for recreation. Rosemarie- What are next steps? A- Start following up on the NEPA process.
4. Southern California Edison Update:
  - Tom Decodas SCE we have been listing and removing thousands of trees. Each time we go back and look there are more. We have 4 districts; Shaver, Tehachapi, Shaver Lake and San Juanquin ...since goal post is always moving we don't see being done anytime soon. So, mitigation planning has occurred. Evacuation planning, fire protection, we can't lick this as we have in the past. We are looking for support from this TF to help speed up the work. We are considering Helicopters, topping trees, leaving trees (trees hazard vs fire load). Looking to



explore nontraditional methods that we have not done before or any other ideas that the TMTF has.

- Chief Pimlott- very happy to have the update from SCE. It is truly an emergency. It is important for us to identify all the tools available to us. Any agency that is helping, looking at burning restrictions looking at challenges that entities have is important to share.
- Q- How long are these costs going to be going on. A- We don't know how long the drought will be going on. We are seeking recovery costs.
- Chris Fischer- Just making sure you are aware of USFS regional permits. SCE-yes
- Q- How many trees have been cut? SCE- About 18,000-20,000 trees
- Chief Pimlott- Where are the trees going? SCE- under tree removal contracts the contractors are removing them, so not sure. Yes, we could ask.

5. PG&E Update:

- 90,000 trees were forecasted for 2016, but we removed 230,000. In 2017 expect to be the same as 2016.
- Been through areas more than once.
- Disposal program up and running. 5,600 properties signed up
- Looking at other techniques (example helicopter topping).
- Wheelerbrator protest period should be done today
- Rick Carr- any other areas have TM too? A- yes, each county that joins has it. El Dorado seems to be breaking point.
- Q- Are you working off a predetermined resource list? Vendors asking how to get contracts and whom to call? SCE- we reached out beyond the norm. PG&E- we are worried about long term and meeting the needs. We started with a list of 46 and it is down to 2. People were overwhelmed with size and scale. Any names you have please send our way, we need them.
- Rosamarie- Can the properties that have signed up for debris removal, put it in proportion? PG&E- Not sure off top of my head.

6. CAL TRANS Update

- Update on resubmitting a federal emergency request
  - Darrel spoke
  - 100% complete for a few projects. Some areas closed to us due to weather.
  - Lessons learned conf call on January 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Federal emergency funding- we did have discussions with HFWA with our Director and Deputy Director, including the local division administrator. HFWA is not willing to provide emergency response funding. It is considered maintenance because it has not fallen on the road. Spoke about a way to address funding options. Contact our local assistance group to get the information about those procedures. Counties would use their current allocated funding if it is federally eligible, potentially sacrificing another project they were going to do.
  - Did have some down trees, but not in the allocated ten counties with this last storm.



- Total trees marked 72,000 ...49,600 thousand have been removed

## 7. Working Group Updates

- Mapping and Monitoring Working Group (Mark Rosenberg & Chris Fischer)
  - Updated HHZ for Tier 1 and 2
  - Forest service partner still reviewing the tiering efforts.
  - Project Mapper is being loaded, primarily from Forest Service, Caltrans and CALFIRE
  - Gabe- Showed Project Mapper
    1. Planned projects, active, canceled
    2. Once complete they transfer to public viewer
  - Staff person in southern Sierra to help get counties started and help with tool
  - Gabe- We have been trying to meet with each of the 10 counties to help with loading info, Project Mapper is password protected so that projects are valid and input is consistent. Last month it started to explode in use. This is great news.
  - Mark- Asking for folks to identify a point of contact, and reviewed that Project mapper is updated every other month which is also reflected in the Public Viewer as well..
  - Gabe- It is very simple to use.
  - Mark- Your projects can be extracted to use for yourself. We would like to find a way to represent the utilities work that has been done, without showing actual power grids.
  - Q Rosemarie- who do we work through? A - contact Emily for the Southern Region, she will follow up locally. Chief Pimlott, you can also always start with contact to the local CALFIRE unit.
  - Emily is going to be doing a training in TUU soon. If you already have a GIS format, a translator can be built.
  - Q-Only completed projects show up on viewer for public, why? Mark- to avoid confusion or miss understanding regarding the timing of project work since a planned event may depend on unsecured funding. When funding is available then it may be that a portion of the planned area could be treated. In addition, confidentiality was an original concern with the individuals that had been participating in the program. CAL FIRE will look into this recommendation.
  - Chief Pimlott- This tool is one place where we can really tell our story and what we have been doing. This would be important for legislators to see too. We need to dive in to the governance of public vs to private.
- Public Out Reach Working Group Daniel Berlant, & Staci Heaton
  - One year summary was sent out.
  - Co work with Forest health resiliency working group and see how we can work together.
  - Legislative outreach strategy, both federal and state legislators to target.
- Regulations Working Group Update (Matthew Reischman & Sandy Goldberg)
  - Insurance workshop update
  - Matt- Continue to discuss insurance issues



- Workshop will be at the Resource Building on February 9<sup>th</sup>
- Opportunity for counties to come together with insurance, representation from a consumer perspective. Insurance advocacy group. Counties may ask questions, how models are used, fire risk evaluation, fuel breaks, drill down on what counties can do to support their constituents. Help homeowners with insurance. Let insurance companies present their side too. Questions will be issued ahead of time. Trying to front load a lot of the work so time is used wisely.
- Flyer will be made and sent out.
- Bioenergy Working Group Update - Angie Lottes
  - Fuel procurement review
  - Angie- Big month for us, now have 153 megawatt biomass power for 5 years across 6 facilities
  - This gets us most of the way to the 175MW that they were trying to get to, 29MW left
  - First time public utilities are also required to purchase.
  - Regarding contracts, list of contacts, facilities that have contacts, they will be required to take a certain % of High Hazard fuels, for example this year they will need to take 50% HH, then each year this will increase to 60% and so on.
  - Fuel manager is the one to contact for each facility. This is posted on the TMTF website.
  - The map shows facilities that are looking for material to consume.
  - Meeting tomorrow, changes for the BioMatt (smaller) become active February 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Newly Built facilities had applications due
  - Q- Frustrated with two sides of the utility, interconnection costs. Wants help from PG&E. Huge costs for interconnection costs. PG&E interconnection has very stringent rules, PG&E does not have latitude. PG&E will do a separate call.
  - Comment - SCE can offer the same service for a much lower cost. How is this? This will be addressed in the PG&E call with this WG.
- Resource Allocation Working Group - Tom Lutzenberger
  - Landowner Assistance Sub-Working Group
  - ACI and permit update: Back in July or Aug letter was submitted to the Governor's office. We need them to be fully operational then letters could be submitted and under review. Saul is aware of the letter. 8 week window allowed for operation.
  - Did get a call from EPA region 9 Director, told her we were hoping to get a letter and it would be sent soon. Shared current issues and statewide operation. If no action soon, then a general statewide permit will have to be applied for. 8 weeks once it starts operation, there is an additional 8 weeks can be requested.
  - Then federal permits would have to be issued
  - Equipment use agreement with CALFIRE-Jamie, have feedback working to get it signed. So far only Calaveras is actively being pursued.
  - Q- I had the impression that it was just a matter of having it blessed, should we all be going back to county councils? A- county councils have looked at it and we have a



template now. Calaveras is tinkering. Your councils have looked at this and if something arises...it should move quickly. Almost there, reach out to your local CalFire and then you could use the ACI.

- Thom- Landowner assistance sub working group
  1. Rick-Group participation has dwindled a lot in last few months. Looking for new participation starting with a Needs assessment. Very important aspect of the TF want to make sure it is moving forward.
  2. Tom L- highest needs were private property owners. When they got together they were able to get grants. When individuals not able to get the SRA grants. Survey also found that counties that already had infrastructure in place were moving forward. Counties with no infrastructure are struggling. Seeking outside help for landowners. 30 second overview- increase need regards to mapping, so folks can predict resources. Equipment, first round is done, working on second round of equipment is going on now. Information for private landowner compared to others. Updating TF, let us know what you want to know.
- Forest Health and Resilience Working Group- Pete Cafferata & Stewart McMorrow
  - Developing a white paper outlining needs for the Sierra. Have been editing document online. Plan to have it finished by next meeting Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. Lack of consensus, so working on a 10-step review process. Utilizing this process now. We have heard two presentations from the USFS.
  - Stuart- still working on the map with seed zones across the mortality areas. Speculative seedling order 130,000 seeds. CFIP trying to encourage landowners to reseed. Reforestation workshop with UC extension and CalFire all working together. Feel Fresno area is ready for help and the timing. We will be going north from there in the Fall, needs assessment.
- Market Development Working Group- Evan Johnson
  - Beck report status: Evan-Not a huge report. WG has completed their review, hope to have final report by the time the next meeting comes around.

#### 8. County Updates:

- Tuolumne- Same issues, working on outreach, private property, Little Hoover Commission concerns
- Chief Pimlott- Hoover commission- everyone has been asked to have their comments in. Unscripted dialog will be good, wanting to know your thoughts and concerns. You should have an honest voice, not about the state, Cal Fire or anyone else on how the story is being told. CalFire is not concerned, we think that open dialog, perspective, that is ok, opportunity of the State's response to the disaster. A platform beyond tree mortality and what we are doing in the woods.
- Fresno- Never seen Government work so fast with grant, compliments.
- Mariposa- milestone- officially selected a TM service manager, contract will come before the board on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Questions for the insurance group please see Rosemarie. This workshop



should be a benefit to the counties. Thank you for the SRA grants, our FireSafe council brought in money. CalTrans and PG&E most tree felling done by them.

- Amador- hired a company and RPF. Thank CalTrans and PG&E for the all the work. Now the roads are getting even more destroyed. Looking for funding. 2/5 were funded for the SRA.
- Chief Pimlott- We are happy to have staff sit down and work with counites. \$10 million. were approved in SRA. \$5 million directly for TM counties rest was allocated across the state. We do have an obligation that we spend those monies back across the state.
- El Dorado- Very relived RPF on board. We concur completely with priorities in the counties, insurance issues, modeling, support for private landowners, railroading logs/log storage. Did appreciate timeliness of the SRA grants.

9. Closing Comments

10. Adjournment